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Prenat Diagn. 2011 Dec;31(12):1176-80. doi: 10.1002/pd.2859. Epub 2011 Oct 24.

## Aortic isthmus blood flow in fetuses of diabetic mothers.

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### Abstract

**OBJECTIVE:** To test the hypothesis that the aortic isthmus flow index (IFI) is lower in fetuses of diabetic mothers than in fetuses of nondiabetic mothers.

**STUDY DESIGN:** We performed a cross-sectional observational study to assess the IFI in fetuses, with (n = 13) and without (n = 37) myocardial hypertrophy, of mothers with diabetes mellitus and in fetuses of nondiabetic mothers (n = 23). Analysis of variance and Tukey test were used to assess differences among the groups.

**RESULTS:** There were no differences in maternal or gestational age among the groups. In fetuses of diabetic mothers, the mean IFI in fetuses with myocardial hypertrophy was  $1.19 \pm 0.06$ , and in fetuses without it was  $1.18 \pm 0.09$ . The mean IFI in fetuses of nondiabetic mothers was  $1.32 \pm 0.07$  (P < 0.001).

**CONCLUSIONS:** The IFI in fetuses of diabetic mothers is lower than in fetuses of nondiabetic mothers, possibly as a result of a decreased left ventricular compliance.

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PMID: 22025282 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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